REMARKS

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 13-24 have been canceled. Claims 1, 4, and 7-12 remain pending in the application. Applicants amend claim 1 for further clarification. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 4, and 7-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0143960 to Goren et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,095,740 to Jagannath et al. Applicants amend claim 1 in a good faith effort to further clarify the invention as distinguished from the cited references. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

The Examiner cited and relied upon paragraph [0011] of Goren et al. as alleged disclosure of the claimed "(c) generating" and "(d) removing" features. Page 7. lines 3-15 of the Office Action. Such portion of Goren et al. describes as follows:

> "The present invention is a virtual network generation (VNG) system and method for establishing and managing private network communities (PNCs) including, potentially, a plurality of isolated and geographically dispersed electronic devices (or "clients") coupled together over extended and potentially disparate communication links. A PNC in accordance with the present invention allows use of any transport framework, including publicly available frameworks, as a backbone to selectively establish secure or unsecured links, thereby extending communications between otherwise isolated clients. PNCs may be selectively assembled, disassembled, reassembled, joined, disjoined, and rejoined. A PNC is, preferably, setup and controlled automatically, dynamically and remotely by a PNC control system, which has the ability to route through public networks in a manner that enables substantially similar security and functionality available in traditional private networks, such as a LAN. From the perspective of the end-user at a client, the nature of the physical network through which information is routed is irrelevant. The PNC appears to the end-user as a traditional, dedicated private network that emulates a natural, familiar and standard LAN workflow."

In other words, the cited portion of Goren et al. only includes a general description of a private network community (PNC) being "selectively assembled, disassembled, reassembles, joined, disjoined, and rejoined," and does not include any disclosure or suggestion of connections sharing or having different links, let alone any features relating to making or using connections that pass through different links. And, therefore, Goren et al., as cited and relied upon by the Examiner, at least fail to disclose or suggest the claimed features of:

> "(c) generating subnetwork connections by connecting the branch connection points, the nodes and the links in such a manner that the subnetwork connections share no links,
> (d) generating the virtual ring network by connecting the subnetwork connections which pass through different links," as recited in claim 1. (Emphasis added)

The Examiner cited Jagannath et al. as a combining reference to specifically address other features of the claimed invention that the Examiner conceded were absent from the disclosure of Goren et al. Page 8, line 7 et seq. of the Office Action. Thus, a combination with Jagannath et al. would still have failed to cure the above-noted deficiencies of Goren et al., even assuming, arguendo, that such a combination would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the claimed invention was made.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that 1, together with claims 4 and 7-12 dependent therefrom, is patentable over Goren et al. and Jagannath et al. separately and in combination, for at least the foregoing reasons.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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